

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

Hubbell Power Systems Division

Tennessee Manufacturing Extension Partnership

Lean Training and Consulting Reaps Benefits for Hubbell Lenoir City

Client Profile:

Hubbell Lenoir City, Inc., a division of Hubbell Power Systems, manufactures polymer concrete products for the electrical and communications industries. Established in 1987, the company employs 150 people at its facility in Lenoir City, Tennessee.

Situation:

Hubbell Lenoir City was interested in using Value Stream Mapping (VSM) techniques to identify areas on which to focus improvement activities. The Tennessee Manufacturing Extension Partnership (TMEP), a NIST MEP network affiliate, was contacted to provide training in Lean manufacturing and VSM.

Solution:

TMEP provided Hubbell with an overview of Lean manufacturing and Value Stream Mapping. With TMEP's assistance, the company value stream mapped the primary product groups to develop a company action plan. The VSM identified which continuous improvement areas in the plant had the greatest impact on company objectives. An area of the plant was selected based on information provided by the VSM, the company's success criteria and available resources. Then the team selected a second project and targeted another area of the plant for Lean implementation training and consulting based on the VSM activities. This information was used to prioritize process improvement items. Using the information from the VSM, the team implemented several improvement Kaizens which resulted in reduced lead times, enhanced workplace safety, increased output, and less material handling.

Results:

- * Increased sales by \$2.5 million.
- * Retained sales of \$7.8 million.
- * Realized \$25,000 in cost savings.
- * Invested \$20,000 in workforce development.
- * Achieved a more competitive and profitable position.

Testimonial:

"If we had not utilized TMEP to assist us in implementing the Lean system in our business, someone else might have acquired our business."

John Downing, General Manager